IFW



## PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Russell A. Firestone et al. Confirmation No.: 1735

Application No.: 10/821,849 Group Art Unit: 3629

Filed : April 12, 2004 Examiner: Not yet assigned

For : PROCESSING OF DOCUMENTS WITH MEDICAL AND OTHER WASTE

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(3)

Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is directed to the 6 cited references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08a. No representation is made or intended that more relevant information does not exist or that the order of presentation of the information in any way reflects its relative pertinence. Copies of the references are being submitted herewith, unless they are U.S. Patents, U.S. published applications or co-pending U.S. applications.

Applicant respectfully requests that each of the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the cited references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

It is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, no certification or fee would be required.

## -2- Attorney Docket No. 21867.104PTUS

Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 50-2228 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/30/04

By: Martin Sulay 45,40

Scott Chambers

Registration No. 37,573

Patton Boggs, LLP 8484 Westpark Drive 9<sup>th</sup> Floor McLean, VA 22102 Telephone (703) 744-8000 Facsimile (703) 744-8091

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Separtitute for form 1449A/PTO Complete if Known Application Number 10/821,849 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date April 12, 2004 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Russell A. Firestone et al. Art Unit 3629 (Use as many sheets as necessary) Examiner Name Unassigned Sheet 1 of 1 21867.104PTUS Attorney Docket Number

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Cited Document			
		US- 5,270,000	12/14/1993	GOLDNER et al.			
		US- 5,529,687	06/25/1996	MERTSCH			
		US- 5,624,419	04/29/1997	ERSEK et al.			
		US- 5,661,031	08/26/1997	MURPHY et al.			
		US- 5,744,688	04/28/1998	VANCE et al.			
		US- 5,932,173	08/03/1999	VANCE et al.			
		US-					
		US-					
-		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					
	I	US-					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite	Foreign Patent Document	Publication	Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T⁵	
	No.1	Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> ( <i>if known</i> )	Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document			
			<u> </u>				
-							
				••			

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. In document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.